

Message Text

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17

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 IO-14

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FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8986

USIA WASHDC

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

DIA WASHDC

USNATO BRUSSELS 1167

AMEMBASSY ROME

CINCUSNAVEUR

CINCUSEUR

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER

AMCONSUL ZAGREB

UNCLAS BELGRADE 1608

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, OGEN, YO, US, NATO

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION REPORT: "DARK IMAGE" MANEUVERS

REF: BELGRADE 1575

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: YUGOSLAV MEDIA APRIL 5 CONTINUE FULL, UN-
ABATED COVERAGE OF STRAINED ITALIAN-YUGOSLAV RELATIONS.
PROTEST RALLIES AND STATEMENTS OF YUGOSLAV LEADERS, WHILE
DIRECTLY AIMED AT CONDEMNING "RUDE ASSAULT ON TERRITORIAL
INTEGRITY OF YUGOSLAVIA," ALSO CONTINUE TO SNIPE AT ITALIAN-
AMERICAN "DARK IMAGE" MANEUVERS, AS BEING IN CONCERT WITH
"IRREDENTIST CLAIMS." EMBASSY PRESS STATEMENT ON SUBJECT
OF MANEUVERS GAINS COVERAGE IN "RED" TANJUG BULLETIN.
END SUMMARY.

2. BELGRADE AND REPUBLICAN PRESS APRIL 5 INCLUDE FULL TEXT OF
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DIPLOMATIC NOTES EXCHANGED BETWEEN COUNTRIES, MADE PUBLIC BY

YUGOSLAV SECRETARIAT FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS. YUGOSLAV MEDIA ALSO CARRY PRESS CONFERENCE REMARKS OF MILAN ZUPAN, SPOKESMAN FOR FEDERAL SECRETARIAT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, ON CHRONOLOGY OF DISPUTE AND EXCHANGE OF NOTES WITH ITALIAN GOVERNMENT. COMMENTING ON NATO MANEUVERS BY ITALIAN-AMERICAN UNITS IN ADRIATIC, ZUPAN STATED VIEW THAT EXERCISES ARE "DIRECTLY AND LOGICALLY LINKED TO STAND OF ITALIAN GOVERNMENT." ZUPAN ADDED FURTHER THAT MANEUVERS, TOGETHER WITH TERRITORIAL CLAIMS ON YUGOSLAVIA, ARE CONSIDERED "ATTEMPT TO BRING PRESSURE ON SOVEREIGN, INDEPENDENT AND NON-ALIGNED YUGOSLAVIA."

3. ALSO RECEIVING COVERAGE IN APRIL 5 YUGOSLAV PRESS IS SPEECH BY LCY EXECUTIVE BUREAU SECRETARY STANE DOLANC, WHO ASSERTED THAT YUGOSLAVIA HAS MANY ALLIES AMONG "PROGRESSIVE PEOPLES AND FORCES IN WORLD," WHICH WILL NOT ALLOW YUGOSLAVIA TO BE "ENDANGERED." TANJUG BULLETIN REPORTS SPEECH OF VICE-PRESIDENT OF FEDERAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, DR. ANTUN VRATUSA, CRITICISING THOSE IN WESTERN PRESS WHO JUDGE INTENSE YUGOSLAV REACTION TO "ZONE B" QUESTION AS LINKED TO OTHER ALLEGED YUGOSLAV INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL PROBLEMS. IF AIMS OF IRREDENTIST AND NEO-FASCIST CIRCLES ARE CONNECTED WITH FACT THAT "SIXTH FLEET HAS APPREARED IN ADRIATIC FOR FIRST TIME," CONCLUDED VRATUSA, THEN SITUATION IS "MUCH MORE SERIOUS" AND SHARP YUGOSLAV PROTEST WARRANTED.

4. POLITIKA'S BOZIDAR DIKIC INCLUDES COMMENTARY ON NATO 25TH ANNIVERSARY, FOCUSING ON DISHARMONY AMONG ALLIES. DIKIC ALSO CLAIMS THAT DURING THIS PERIOD ITALIANS GAINED INFLUENTIAL NATO POSITION IN MEDITERRANEAN, WHICH THEY NOW EMPLOY IN SUPPORT OF "IRREDENTIST CLAIMS" ON YUGOSLAV TERRITORY. SARAJEVO DAILY OSLOBODJENJE REPORTS WORKING PEOPLE IN YUGOSLAVIA DENOUNCE NOT ONLY TERRITORIAL PRETENSIONS OF ITALIAN RULING CIRCLES, BUT ALSO EXPRESS DEEP INDIGNATION AT "PROVOCATIVE AND HOSTILE COMBINED U.S.-ITALIAN MANEUVERS." "RED" TANJUG BULLETIN (APRIL 4), CIRCULATED TO PARTY AND GOVERNMENT LEADERS, INCLUDES AP STORY QUOTING MAIN POINTS OF EMBASSY PRESS RELEASE ON SUBJECT OF ITALIAN-U.S. MANEUVERS IN ADRIATIC. SAME DAY "RED" TANJUG CARRIES ITEM ON EMBASSY PRESS RELEASE ATTRIBUTED TO VOICE OF AMERICA'S BELGRADE CORRESPONDENT, THAT LONG-PLANNED MANEUVERS ARE IN NO WAY CONNECTED

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WITH CURRENT DISPUTE. ALSO, INCLUDED IN "RED" TANJUG COVERAGE IS BBC REPORT ON PROTESTS IN YUGOSLAVIA, WITH CONCLUDING STATEMENT THAT U.S. EMBASSY IN BELGRADE HAS DENIED THAT MANEUVERS, WHICH WERE PLANNED LONG TIME AGO, ARE IN ANY WAY CONNECTED WITH BORDER DISPUTE.

TOON

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